

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

ABSTRACT

The invention concerns an An implant in the form of a compression resistant hollow body (1), used in procedures for stiffening the vertebral column (2). The hollow body (1) includes two open receptacles (3, 4) mutually oriented toward one another that interlock and form the implant proper (cage). The two receptacles (3, 4) can be separated by pressure through insertion of a filling material, thereby producing an expansion of the hollow body (1) after it has been implanted.